# NYC Anarchist Black Cross

**U.S. Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War Listing**

Edition 13.8, September 2018

ALL CONTENT IN THIS EDITION IS UP-TO-DATE
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2018.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN LIBERATION | 1 |
| INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE | 13 |
| HACKS/INFORMATION LEAKS | 14 |
| GREEN SCARE/EARTH LIBERATION/ANIMAL LIBERATION | 15 |
| OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION | 16 |
| GI/WAR RESISTERS | 19 |
| ANTI-POLICE | 20 |
| VIRGIN ISLAND 3 | 20 |
| GET INVOLVED | 22 |
| WRITE A LETTER | 22 |
| STAYING SAFE | 24 |

## BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN LIBERATION

**Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335**
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Road
Frackville, Pennsylvania 17932

*Birthday: April 24*
Mumia is an award winning journalist and was one of the founders of the Black Panther Party chapter in Philadelphia, PA. He has struggled for justice and human rights for people of color since he was at least 14 years old ~ the age when he joined the Party. In December of 1982, Mumia, who moonlighted by driving a taxi, happened upon police who were beating his brother. During the melee, a police officer was shot and killed. Despite the fact that many people saw someone else shoot and then runaway from the scene, Mumia, in what could only be called a kangaroo court, was convicted and sentenced to death. During the summer of 1995, a death warrant was signed by Governor Tom Ridge, which sparked one of the most effective organizing efforts in defense of a political prisoner ever. Since that time, Mumia has had his death sentence overturned, but still has a life sentence with no opportunity for parole. *More information: freemumia.com*

**Sundiata Acoli #440810-A**
New Jersey State Prison
Post Office Box 861
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0861

*Birthday: January 14*
A New York Black Panther, he endured two years of prison awaiting trial for the Panther 21 Conspiracy Case. He and his comrades were eventually acquitted on all the bogus charges.

The case was historic and a classic example of police and government attempting to neutralize organizations by incarcerating their leadership. As a result of this political attack and because of the immense pressure and surveillance from the FBI and local police Sundiata, like many other Panther leaders went “underground”. On May 2, 1973, Sundiata Acoli, Assata Shakur and Zayd Shakur were ambushed and attacked by state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. Assata was wounded and Zayd was killed. During the gun battle a state trooper was shot and killed in self defense. Sundiata was tried in an environment of mass hysteria and convicted, although there was no credible evidence

that he killed the trooper or had been involved in the shooting. He was sentenced to thirty years. Sundiata was ordered released on parole by a state appeals court in New Jersey in September 2014 when the court ruled the parole board had "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" when it previously denied him parole. The State of New Jersey has appealed the decision. *More information: sundiataacoli.org*

**Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin #99974-555**
USP Tucson
Post Office Box 24550
Tucson, Arizona 85734

*Birthday: October 4*
Formerly known as H. Rap Brown, the Imam came to prominence in the 1960s as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Justice Minister of the Black Panther Party. He is perhaps most famous for his proclamation during that period that "violence is as American as cherry pie", as well as once stating that "If America don't come around, we're gonna burn it down." He is currently serving a life sentence for homicide.

**Joe-Joe Bowen* #AM4272**
SCI Coal Township
1 Kelley Drive
Coal Township, Pennsylvania 17866-1020
**Address envelope to Joseph Bowen.*

*Birthday: January 15*
Joseph "Joe-Joe" Bowen is one of the many all-but-forgotten frontline soldiers in the liberation struggle. A native of Philadelphia, Joe-Joe was a young member of the "30th and Norris" street gang before his incarceration politicized him. Released in 1971, his outside activism was cut short a week following his release when Joe-Joe was confronted by an officer of the notoriously brutal Philadelphia police department. The police officer was killed in the confrontation, and Bowen fled. After his capture and incarceration, Bowen became a Black Liberation Army combatant, defiant to authorities at every turn. In 1973, Joe-Joe and Philadelphia Five prisoner Fred "Muhammad" Burton assassinated Holmesberg prison's warden and deputy warden as well as wounded the guard commander in retaliation for intense repression against Muslim prisoners in the facility.

In 1981, Bowen led a six-day standoff with authorities when he and six other captives took 39 hostages at Graterford Prison as a freedom attempt and protest of the prison

conditions. Much of his time in prison has been spent in and out of control units, solitary confinement, and other means of isolating Joe-Joe from the general prison population. These include three trips to Marion Penitentiary, where he met Sundiata Acoli and other BLA members. He is legendary to many prisoners as a revolutionary. “I used to teach the brothers how to turn their rage into energy and understand their situations,” Bowen told the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1981. “I don’t threaten anybody. I don’t talk to pigs. I don’t drink anything I can’t see through and I don’t eat anything off a tray. When the time comes, I’ll be ready.”

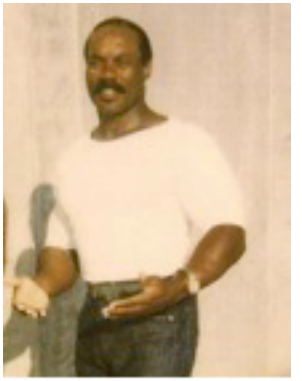
**Veronza Bowers, Jr. 35316-136**
FMC Butner
Post Office Box 1600
Butner, North Carolina 27509

*Birthday: February 4*
Veronza was a member of the Black Panther Party, convicted in the murder of a U.S. Park Ranger on the word of two government informants, both of whom received reduced sentences for other crimes by Federal prosecutors. There were no eye-witnesses and no evidence independent of the informants to link him to the crime. At trial, Veronza offered alibi testimony, not credited by the jury. Nor was testimony of two relatives of the informants who insisted that they were lying. The informants had all charges against them in this case dropped and one was given $10,000 by the government according to the prosecutor’s post-sentencing report. Veronza has consistently proclaimed his innocence of the crime he never committed, even at the expense of having his appeals for parole denied for which an admission of guilt and contrition is virtually required. *More information: veronza.org*

**Muhammad Burton* AF3896**
SCI Somerset
1590 Walters Mill Road
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15510-0001
**Address envelope to Fred Burton.*

*Birthday: December 15*
Frederick Burton is an innocent man who has diligently attempted to prove his innocence to the courts for 47 years. Prior to his inprisonment, Fred worked for a phone company, was a well respected member of his community and his wife was preparing to have twins. In 1970, Fred was accused and then convicted of participating in the

planning of the murder of Philadelphia police officers. While the alleged plan was to blow up a police station, instead a police officer was shot and killed by alleged members of a radical group called “the Revolutionaries.”



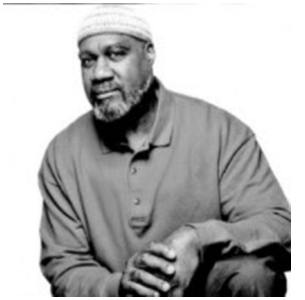
**Chip Fitzgerald* #B-27527**
California State Prison - LAC
Post Office Box 4490
B-4-150
Lancaster, California 93539
**Address envelope to Romaine Fitzgerald.*

*Birthday: April 11*
Romaine “Chip” Fitzgerald, born and raised in Compton, California, joined the Southern California Chapter of the Black Panther Party in early 1969 as a teenager who had just been released from the California Youth Authority. In September of that year, as a dedicated member of the Party, Chip was arrested in connection with a police shoot-out and tried for assault on police and related charges, including the murder of a security guard. He was sentenced to death. *More information: freechip.org*

**Cinque Magee* #A92051**
B3-138
California Mens Colony
Post Office Box 8103
San Luis Obispo,California 93409
**Address envelope to Ruchell Magee.*

*Birthday: March 17*
Commonly regarded as the longest held political prisoner in the U.S., Ruchell Magee has been imprisoned since 1963. He was politicized in prison and participated in the August 7, 1970 Marin County Courthouse Rebellion— the attempted liberation of political prisoner George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers by Jackson’s younger brother Jonathan. Magee was seriously injured in the incident and subsequently pleaded guilty to aggravated kidnapping. He was sentenced in 1975 to life in prison and has been denied parole numerous times.

**Jalil Muntaqim* #77-A-4283**
Sullivan Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 116
Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116
**Address envelope to Anthony Bottom.*



*Birthday: October 18*
Jalil became affiliated with the Black Panther Party at age 18. Less than 2 months before his 20th birthday he was captured with Albert Nuh Washington in a midnight shootout with San Francisco police. He was subsequently charged with a host of revolutionary activities including the assassination of two police in New York City, and is currently serving a 25 years to life sentence in New York State. His case is known as the New York 3 case as his co-defendants include Nuh and Herman Bell. He was also implicated in the San Francisco 8 case, and pled guilty to a lesser offense. *More information: freejalil.com*

**Ronald Reed #219531**
Minnesota Correctional Facility-Rush City
7600 525th Street
Rush City, Minnesota 55069-2265

*Birthday: August 31*
Ronald Reed, a former member of the Black United Front, was convicted of the 1970 shooting of a St. Paul police officer. Twenty-five years after the killing, Reed was arrested and convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first degree-murder. He is serving Life in prison.
Reed is a former 60s civil rights activist. In 1969, Reed was also among the students at St. Paul Central High School who demanded black history courses and organized actions against racist teachers. He was also instrumental in helping to integrate college campuses in Minnesota. During this period, Reed began to look toward revolutionary theory and began to engage in political street theater with other young black revolutionaries in the city of St. Paul. *More information: j.mp/RonaldReed*

**Kojo Bomani Sababu* #39384-066**
USP Canaan
Post Office Box 300
Waymart, Pennsylania 18472
**Address envelope to Grailing Brown.*

*Birthday: May 27*
Kojo Bomani Sababu is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War, currently serving a 55 year sentence for actions with the Black Liberation Army and attempted prison escape with Puerto Rican Independista Oscar López Rivera. Sababu was convicted of one count of conspiracy for an alleged escape plan that included the use of rockets, hand grenades, and a helicopter.

**Kamau Sadiki* #0001150688**
Augusta State Medical Prison
3001 Gordon Highway
Grovetown, Georgia 30813
**Address envelope to Freddie Hilton.*

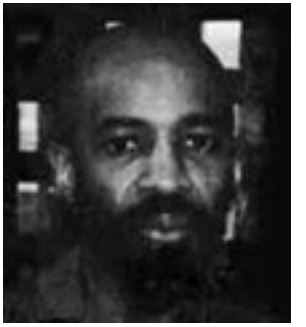
*Birthday: February 19*
Kamau Sadiki is a former member of the Black Panther Party and was convicted of a 30-year old murder case of a Fulton County Police Officer found shot to death in his car outside a service station. *More information: freekamau.org*

**Dr. Mutulu Shakur #83205-012**
USP Victorville
Post Office Box 3900
Adelanto, California 92301

*Birthday: August 8*
In 1987 Dr. Shakur was sentenced to 60 years imprisonment for his role in the Black Liberation Movement. In March 1982, Dr. Shakur and 10 others were indicted by a federal grand jury under a set of U.S. conspiracy laws called Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) laws. These conspiracy laws were ostensibly developed to aid the government in its prosecution of organized crime figures; however, they have been used with varying degrees of success against revolutionary organizations. Dr. Shakur was charged with conspiracy and participation in the Black Liberation Army, a group that carried out actual and attempted expropriations from several banks. Eight incidents were alleged to have occurred between December 1976 to October 1981. In addition, he was charged with participation in the 1979 prison escape of Assata Shakur, who is now in exile in Cuba.

After five years underground, Dr. Shakur was arrested on February 12, 1986.

While he was on the street, Dr. Shakur challenged the use of methadone as a tool of recovery for addicts. He believed in natural remedies instead and, based on those beliefs, founded the Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America. Many people credit Shakur with saving their lives. Dr. Shakur has worked to free political prisoners and to expose government abuses against political organizers. While in prison, he has struggled to create peace between rival gangs. *More information: mutulushakur.com*



**Russell Maroon Shoatz #AF3855**
SCI Dallas
1000 Follies Road
Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612

*Birthday: August 23*
A dedicated community activist and founding member of the Philadelphia based organization Black Unity Council, which eventually merged with the Black Panther Party (1969). In 1970, along with 5 others, Maroon was accused of attacking a police station, which resulted in an officer being killed. This attack was said to have been carried out in response to the rampant police brutality in the Black community. For 18 months Maroon functioned underground as a soldier in the Black Liberation Army. In 1972 he was captured. Twice he escaped—once in 1977 and again 1980, but both times he was recaptured and today he is held in Pennsylvania where he is serving multiple life sentences. *More information: russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com*

## MOVE Nine

The MOVE 9 are nine men and women who have been in prison since August 8, 1978, following a massive police attack on their home in the Powelton Village neighborhood of Philadelphia. The raid was a major military operation carried out by the Philadelphia police department under orders of then-mayor, Frank Rizzo. During this attack, heavy equipment was used to tear down the fence surrounding their home, fill the house with tear gas, and flood it. One of the cops on the scene was killed by a single bullet, most likely fired by another cop from above during the raid. All nine members of the MOVE organization were put on trial and convicted of murder. One of the nine, Merle Africa, died in prison in 1998 after being denied medical treatment. In January 2015, Phil Africa died in a prison infirmary after a short stay in a local hospital. In June 2018, Debbie Africa was the first MOVE prisoner to be released on parole. The six remaining prisoners are regularly up for parole and supporters are campaigning to secure their release. *More information: move9parole.blogspot.com and onamove.com*

**Charles Sims Africa #AM4975**
SCI Dallas
1000 Follies Road
Dallas, PA 18612-0286
*Birthday: April 2*

**Delbert Orr Africa #AM4985**
SCI Dallas
1000 Follies Road
Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612-0286
*Birthday: April 2*

**Edward Goodman Africa #AM4974**
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Road
Frackville, Pennsylvania 17932
*Birthday: October 31*

**Janet Holloway Africa #OO6308**
SCI Cambridge Springs
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403
*Birthday: April 13*

**Janine Phillips Africa #OO6309**
SCI Cambridge Springs
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403
*Birthday: April 25*

**Michael Davis Africa #AM4973**
SCI Phoenix
Post Office Box 244
Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426-0244
*Birthday: October 6*

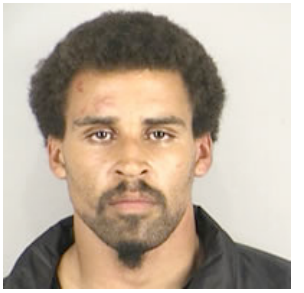
## Nebraska Two

The Nebraska 2 were charged and convicted of the murder of Omaha Police Officer Larry Minard. Minard died when a suitcase containing dynamite exploded in a North Omaha home on August 17, 1970. Officer John Tess was also injured in the explosion. Poindexter and Rice were members of the Black Panther Party, and their case was, and continues to

be, controversial. The Omaha Police withheld exculpatory evidence at trial. The two men had been targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program), which operated against and infiltrated anti-war and Civil Rights groups, including the Omaha Black Panthers. The US section of Amnesty International recognizes Rice and Poindexter as political prisoners. The state's parole board has recommended the men for release, but political leaders have not acted on these recommendations. On March 11th, 2016, Mondo we Langa died in a prison hospital after losing a battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). *More information: n2pp.info*

**Ed Poindexter #27767**
Nebraska State Penitentiary
Post Office Box 2500
Lincoln, Nebraska 68542
*Birthday: November 1*

## ANARCHIST MOVEMENT



**Casey Brezik #1154765**
Algoa Correctional Center
8501 No More Victims Road
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

*Birthday: December 30*
In 2010, anarchist Casey Brezik tried to assassinate the governor of Missouri. In June of 2013, he was convicted and sentenced to a dozen years on each of three counts – assault and two armed criminal action charges – and seven years on a second count of assault. All sentences will concurrently run. *More information: supportcasey.org*

**Bill Dunne #10916-086**
FCI Victorville Medium I
Post Office Box 3725
Adelanto, California 92301
*Birthday: August 3*
Bill Dunne is an anti-authoritarian sentenced to 90 years for the attempted liberation of comrades from Seattle's King County Jail in 1979 and for attempting to break himself out of Leavenworth Penitentiary in 1983. Bill was charged with possession of an

automatic weapon, auto theft, and aiding & abetting the escape. Charges further alleged the operation was financed by bank expropriations and facilitated by illegal acquisition of weapons and explosives.

Bill and his codefendant, Larry Giddings, were accused by police of being "members of a small, heavily armed group of revolutionaries," associated with the Wellspring Communion. Dunne has made the rounds of the federal prison system–including a stint at the infamous Control Unit in Marion, Illinois, where he assisted prisoners with political & academic education. Bill also organizes solidarity runs in conjunction with the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Running Down the Walls and has edited & written for *4 Struggle* magazine. Bill went before the parole board in the winter 2014, was rejected and given a 15 year 'hit' (meaning he cannot go back to the board for that time period).

**Eric King #27090-045**
USP Leavenworth
Post Office Box 1000
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

*Birthday: August 2*
Eric King, a vegan anarchist, was arrested and charged with an attempted firebombing of a government official's office in Kansas City, Missouri in September 2014. Eric was charged with throwing a hammer through a window of the building, followed by two lit Molotov cocktails. In March of 2016, he accepted a non-cooperating plea agreement to one count of using "explosive materials to commit arson of property used in or affecting interstate commerce." *More information: supportericking.org*

**Marie (Marius) Mason #04672-061**
FMC Carswell
Post Office Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127
**Address card/letter to Marius Mason.*

*Birthday: January 26*
Marius Mason is a revolutionary anarchist, avid community gardener,musician, parent of two, writer, Earth First! Organizer, IWW member, and former volunteer for a free herbal healthcare collective. He was an extended care assistant at a small Cincinnati school when arrested on March 10, 2008 by federal agents. Marius was convicted of involvement with a December, 1999 arson at a Michigan State University office in which GMO research

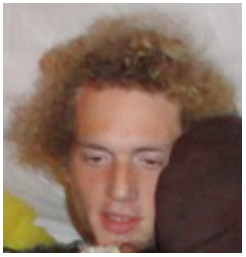
was being conducted and a January, 2000 arson of logging equipment in Mesick, Michigan. Both arsons were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front. *More information: supportmariusmason.org*

## Cleveland Four

The Cleveland 4 were four Occupy Cleveland activists, Brandon, Connor, Doug and "Skelly." The four were arrested on April 30th, 2012 and accused of plotting a series of bombings, including that of an area bridge. The reality is that the FBI, working with an informant, created the scheme, produced the explosives, and coerced these four into participating. Connor, Doug, and Brandon took non cooperating plea deals and pleaded guilty to all charges. The judge applied a "terrorist enhancement" charge to each of them. Doug is serving 11.5 years, Brandon 9 years 9 months, and Connor 8 years 1 month. Skelly took his case to trial acting as his own lawyer. He was found guilty on all counts by his jury and sentenced to 10 years. The four have appealed their cases and lost.

*As a collective, NYC Anarchist Black Cross has decided to withdraw support for Brandon Baxter of the Cleveland 4. It has come to our attention that Brandon has been problematic, abusive, and manipulative to women who have offered him support, material or emotional. Brandon has not been receptive to concerns about this behavior. We are in solidarity with those who have been impacted by Brandon's toxic behavior and feel it is imperative to discontinue support so as to not facilitate any further harm to women. For these reasons, we no longer feel comfortable supporting or encouraging others to do so. More information: cleveland4solidarity.org*

**Skelly* #57976-060**
USP McCreary
Post Office Box 3000
Pine Knot, Kentucky 42635
**Address envelope to Joshua Stafford.*
*Birthday: October 3*



**Connor Stevens #57978-060**
FCI Tallahassee
501 Capital Circle, NE
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
*Birthday: December 17*

**Douglas Wright #57973-060**
USP Big Sandy
Post Office Box 2068
Inez, Kentucky 41224
*Birthday: May 31*

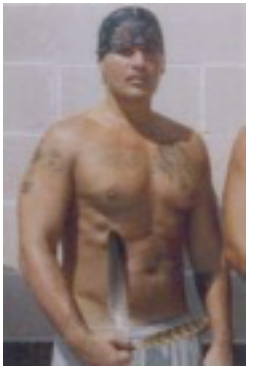
## NATO 3

The NATO 3 were arrested on May 16, 2012 in the lead up to the anti-NATO protests in Chicago, Illinois. They were originally charged with 11 felony counts under the Illinois state version of the USA Patriot Act including material aid for terrorism, conspiracy to commit terrorism & possession of an incendiary device. What surfaced after their arrest were that two undercover cops, “Mo” and “Gloves” had been trying to entrap these three activists and others as part of Chicago’s surveillance & targeting of the local activist community. The NATO 3 went to trial on January 21, 2014, were acquitted of all terrorism counts on February 7. They were found guilty of possession of an incendiary device with the intent to commit arson, possession of an incendiary device with the knowledge that another intended to commit arson and mob action. On April 25, 2014, Brian Church was sentenced to five years, Brent Betterly to six years, and Jared Chase to eight years. In November 2014, Brian Church was released on parole. In April 2015, Brent Betterly was released on parole. In April 2016, Jared was sentenced to an additional year in prison for squirting a shampoo bottle of his human waste at a correctional officer. Jared said in a letter that he acted out when he did not receive the special diet or vitamins prescribed for Huntington’s disease, which is hereditary and marked early on by personality changes, irritability, impulsiveness and impaired judgment.
*More information: freethenato3.wordpress.com*

**Jared Chase M44710**
Dixon Correctional Center
2600 North Brinton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021
*Birthday: June 12*

## INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE

**Oso Blanco* #07909-051**
USP Victorville
Post Office Box 3900
Adelanto, California 92301
**Address envelope to Byron Chubbuck.*



*Birthday: February 26*
Indigenous rights activist serving 55 years for bank robbery, aggravated assault on the FBI, escape and firearms charges. A confidential informant reported that Oso was robbing banks in order to acquire funds to support the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico throughout 1998-99. *More information: freeosoblanco.blogspot.com*

**Leonard Peltier #89637-132**
USP Coleman I
Post Office Box 1033
Coleman, Florida 33521

*Birthday: September 12*
Leonard Peltier is a Native American political prisoner and American Indian Movement (AIM) activist, serving two consecutive life sentences for a crime he was framed for— the 1975 killing of two FBI agents on the Oglala Sioux reservation. After the acquittal of his codefendants and being extradited form Canada under false pretenses, Peltier was convicted by an all white jury in a hostile town. Peltier has appealed his sentence many times and has sued the FBI for withholding thousands of pages of important legal documents from FOIA requests. He is an accomplished painter and writer, having published his memoir, *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance*, in 1999. Peltier has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize multiple times. His defense campaign continues to advocate for executive clemency and his transfer close to home. *More information: leonardpeltier.info*

## Standing Rock 6

The Standing Rock 6 are arrestees facing felony charges stemming from arrests on October 27, 2016 at ceremonial resistance camps at Standing Rock. These camps were convened in North Dakota by Native peoples and their allies who gathered there to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. Collectively, they are referred to as water protectors. These seven arrestees are out of the 800-some water protectors arrested, many the result of

widespread police sweeps at demonstrations like October 22 with scant or no evidence to link most individuals to any crime. *More information at waterprotectorlegal.org*

**Red Fawn Fallis #16358-059**
FMC Carswell
Post Office Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

*Birthday: February 25*
indi.com/FreeRedFawn

**Little Feather* #25201-075**
USP Hazelton
Post Office Box 2000
Bruceton Mills, West Virginia 26525
**Address envelope to Michael Giron*
*Birthday: August 15*
freelittlefeather.com

**Dion Ortiz**
Heart of America Correctional Center
110 Industrial Road
Rugby, North Dakota 58368

*Birthday: September 10*

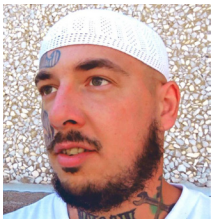
## HACKS/INFORMATION LEAKS

**Jeremy Hammond #18729-424**
FCI Milan
Post Office Box 1000
Milan, Michigan 48160

*Birthday: January 8*
Jeremy Hammond is an anarchist computer hacker from Chicago. In November 2013, he was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for leaking the personal information of 860,000 customers of private intelligence firm Strategic Forecasting (Stratfor) through the whistle-blowing website Wikileaks. This information revealed that Stratfor spies on activists, among

others, at the behest of corporations and the U.S. government. *More information: freejeremy.net*

## GREEN SCARE/EARTH LIBERATION/ANIMAL LIBERATION



**Walter Bond #37096-013**
FCI Terre Haute - CMU
Post Office Box 33
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

*Birthday: April 16*
Walter Bond is an imprisoned Animal Liberation Front activist that was arrested in the summer of 2010 for the "ALF Lone Wolf" arsons of a sheepskin factory in Denver, Colorado a leather factory in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Tiburon restaurant in Sandy, Utah which sold the incredibly cruel product Foie Gras. He pleaded guilty to all three arsons as well as one count of AETA (the infamous Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act). Walter received a total prison sentence of 12 years and 3 month and is scheduled for release on April 14th of 2021.
*More information: supportwalter.org*

**Ellen Gerhart #18-0983**
700 Rishel Hill Road
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823

*Birthday: June 14*
Ellen Gerhart is an outspoken advocate, not only to protect her own land but also to protect the hundreds of waterways impacted across Pennsylvania by ETP's Mariner East 2 pipeline project. Ellen and her family's ongoing opposition to the project has led to significant intimidation and harassment on the part of ETP, their private security contractor TigerSwan, and local authorities. On Friday, August 3, Huntingdon County Judge George Zanic sentenced 63-year-old grandmother, retired teacher, and landowner Ellen Sue Gerhart to two to six months in jail and a $2,000 fine for indirect criminal contempt of court.

**Brian Vaillancourt M42889**
Robinson Correctional Center
13423 East 1150th Avenue
Robinson, Illinois 62454

*Birthday: September 5*
Brian Vaillancourt was arrested in February 2013 in Chicago for allegedly trying to burn down a McDonalds. In February 2013, he pleaded guilty and received a sentence of nine years.

## OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION

**Nina Droz Franco #50427-069**
FCI Tallahassee
501 Capital Circle, NE
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

*Birthday: July 30*
Nina Alejandra Droz Franco was arrested by the Puerto Rico Police as she sat on the street to block a line of riot cops during disturbances that followed a 2017 May Day march. Later that day, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF) took over the investigation. On May 2nd, she was transferred to federal custody and charged with damaging or attempting to damage by means of fire a building engaged in activity affecting interstate commerce. Specifically, she was accused of trying to set fire to the Banco Popular building, which was the target of rage for hundreds of protesters who smashed its glass windows and wrote on its walls. Droz Franco initially pled not guilty, but on July 12 changed her plea after reaching a non-cooperating agreement with the prosecution that recommended a sentence of three years and one month in prison, while her attorney argued for two years. On June 12th, 2018, she was sentenced to 37 months in prison and three years of probation.

**David Gilbert #83-A-6158**
Wende Correctional Facility
3040 Wende Road
Alden, New York 14004-1187

*Birthday: October 6*
David Gilbert, a longtime anti-racist and anti-imperialist, first became active in the Civil Rights movement in 1961. In 1965, he started the Vietnam Committee at Columbia University; in 1967 he co-authored the first Students for a Democratic Society pamphlet naming the system "imperialism"; and he was active in the Columbia strike of 1968. He went on to spend a total of 10 years underground, building a clandestine resistance.

David has been imprisoned in New York State since 10/20/81, when a unit of the Black Liberation Army along with allied white revolutionaries tried to get funds for the struggle by robbing a Brinks truck. This resulted in a shoot-out in which a Brinks guard and two cop were killed. David is serving a sentence of 75 years (minimum) to life under New York State's "felony murder" law, whereby all participants in a robbery, even if they are unarmed and non-shooters, are equally responsible for all deaths that occur. While in prison, David has been a pioneer for peer education on AIDS and has continued to write and advocate against oppression. He's been involved with the annual *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar since 2001 and has written two books– *No Surrender* and *Love and Struggle*. *More information: j.mp/DavidGilbert_PP*

**Xinachtli* #255735**
James V Allred Unit
2101 FM 369 North
Iowa Park, Texas 76367
**Address envelope to Alvaro Hernández.*

*Birthday: May 12*
Xinachtli (Nahuatl, meaning "seed") is a community organizer from Texas. Police informants were used to monitor Xinachtli's organizing activities in the barrio. They were told Xinachtli was "typing legal papers," "had many books" and was working on police brutality cases in Alpine.

The police knew of Xinachtli's history of community-based organizing and his legal skills. Xinachtli was recognized nationally and internationally as the national coordinator

of the Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, which led the struggle to free Mexican national Aldape Guerra from Texas' death row after being framed by Houston police for allegedly killing a cop. Xinachtli's human rights work was recognized in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Mexico and other countries. He was sentenced in Odessa, Texas on June 2-9, 1997 to 50 years in prison for defending himself by disarming a police officer drawing a weapon on him. The trial evidence clearly showed Xinachtli was the victim of witch hunts and a police-orchestrated conspiracy to frame or eliminate him.
*More information: freealvaro.net*

## United Freedom Front

**Jaan Laaman #10372-016**
USP McCreary
Post Office Box 3000
Pine Knot, Kentucky 42635

*Birthday: March 21*
Jaan was raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts and Buffalo, New York. His family immigrated to the United States from Estonia when he was a child. He is currently serving a 53 year prison sentence for his role in the bombings of United States government buildings while a member of the United Freedom Front, an American leftist group which robbed banks, bombed buildings, and attacked law enforcement officers in the 1980s. In the 1960s Laaman worked with Students for a Democratic Society, a community organization that advocated against the Vietnam War and racism. He facilitated youth development in the Black Panther Party and the Puerto Rican Young Lords street gang. In 1972 he was arrested and charged with bombing a Richard Nixon reelection headquarters building and a police station in New Hampshire and was sentenced to 20 years. However, he was released in 1978. In 1979 he and Kazi Toure helped to organize the Amandla Festival of Unity to support an end to apartheid in Southern Africa, which featured musician Bob Marley. He was eventually caught with several other members of the United Freedom Front, referred to as the Ohio 7, including leader Tom Manning in 1984. While originally charged with seditious conspiracy, Laaman was found guilty of five bombings, one attempted bombing, and criminal conspiracy, and sentenced to 53 years in prison.

**Thomas Manning #10373-016**
USP Hazelton
Post Office Box 2000
Bruceton Mills, West Virginia 26525

*Birthday: June 28*
Born to a Boston postal clerk, Thomas "Tom" William Manning is known for his involvement in the killing of a police officer during a routine traffic stop, and for his involvement with the United Freedom Front (UFF) who bombed a series of US military and commercial institutes in the 1970s and early 1980s. As a youth, he shined shoes and raised pigeons, before finding work as a stock boy. He joined the US Military in 1963, and the following year was stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba before being transferred off to spend the following year in the Vietnam War. Some time shortly after 1965, he was sentenced by a Massachusetts state court to five years in prison for armed robbery and assault, serving the last ten months in Massachusetts Correctional Institution - Cedar Junction. He claims it was during these years that he became heavily politicized, through his interactions with other prisoners. After his release in 1971, he married Carol and together they had three children, Jeremy, Tamara, and Jonathan. Together with his arrest for the bombings, Manning was also convicted for his role in killing New Jersey police officer Philip Lamonaco during a traffic stop on December 21 1981. The killings launched the largest manhunt in NJ police history and ended with the arrests of Ray Levasseur, Patricia Gross, Richard Williams, Jaan Laamnan, and Barbara Curzi on November 4th, 1984, and Manning and his wife Carol on April 24, 1985. All of them were associated with the United Freedom Front. Manning pled self defense at his trial, while defense counsel showed that Lamonaco had emptied his .357 revolver at Manning and his associates. He was sentenced on February 19, 1987 to 58 years in federal prison. *More information: oocities.org/tom-manning*

## GI/WAR RESISTERS

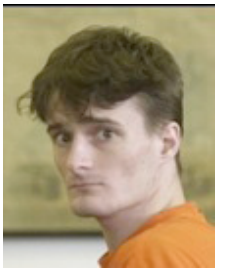
**Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. KN 9758**
SCI Dallas
1000 Follies Road
Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612

*Birthday: February 4*
Norman was sentenced to 1-7 years in May 2012 for his third

RELEASED

trespass at a military recruiting office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

## ANTI-POLICE



**Andrew Mickel V77400**
San Quentin State Prison
San Quentin, California 94974

On November 19, 2002, Andy Mickel shot and killed a cop named David Mobilio of the Red Bluff, California Police Department. There were no witnesses to the killing, and the crime would have gone unsolved had there not been Internet postings about the crime six days later. The postings read, “Hello Everyone, my name’s Andy. I killed a Police Officer in Red Bluff, California in a motion to bring attention to, and halt, the police-state tactics that have come to be used throughout our country.” In April 2005, Mickel was convicted of one count of first-degree murder. He was subsequently sentenced to death, and is being held on Death Row at San Quentin State Prison.

**Reverend Joy Powell #07-G-0632**
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 1000
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2499

*Birthday: March 5*
Rev. Joy Powell was warned by the Rochester Police department that she was a target because of her speaking out against corruption. An all white jury tried her; the state provided no evidence and no eyewitnesses. Rev. Joy was not allowed to discuss her activism or say that she was a pastor. Furthermore, Judge Francis Affronti promised he was going to give her a harsh sentence because he did not like her. She was convicted and given 16 years and seven years concurrent. *More information: freejoypowell.org*

## VIRGIN ISLAND 3

The “Virgin Island 3” are a group of activists accused of murdering eight people in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The murders took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. During the 1970’s, as with much of the world, a movement to resist colonial rule began to grow in the U.S. occupied Virgin Islands. From 1971 to 1973, there was a small

scale Mau Mau rebellion taking place on the islands. This activity was down-played by the media, for fear it would damage the tourist industry, which the island's survival depends on. *More information: virginislands3.yolasite.com*

**Abdul Azeez* #16-047**
Tallahatchie Correctional Facility
415 US Highway 49N
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963
**Address envelope to Warren Ballentine.*
*Birthday: January 9*

**Hanif Shabazz Bey* #16-001**
Tallahatchie Correctional Facility
415 US Highway 49N
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963
**Address envelope to Beaumont Gereau.*
*Birthday: August 16*

**Malik Smith* #16-024**
Tallahatchie Correctional Facility
415 US Highway 49N
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963
**Address envelope to Meral Smith.*
*Birthday: October 8*

## GET INVOLVED

If you're in the NYC area, come to one of our events! We host political prisoner letter-writing dinners every other Tuesday (upcoming events are generally posted on the blog or you can email us to join our announcement list). We also host or co-host several other special events throughout the year, including the annual Running Down the Walls. Contact us if you'd like to be added to our announcement list for upcoming events and important news, or follow us on twitter.

Whether or not you live in the area, we encourage you to become an ABCF Warchest contributor. One can do so via mail or paypal (make your payment to nycabc@riseup.net) at a level of $5, $10, or $20 per month or on an ad hoc basis. Contact us for more information about this program and how to contribute.

For those outside of NYC, we also are available to answer questions and generally support people in starting a prisoner support organization or ABC chapter in your area.

## WRITE A LETTER

Writing a letter to a political prisoner or prisoner of war is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles.

A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication—something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date.

Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated.

With that in mind, avoid feeling intimidated, especially about writing to someone you do not know. And if possible try and be a consistent pen pal.

### What to Write

For many, the first line of the first letter is difficult to write—there is uncertainty and intimidation that come with it. Never fret, it's just a letter.

For the first letter, it's best to offer an introduction, how you heard about the prisoner, a little about yourself. Tell stories, write about anything you are passionate about--movement work and community work are great topics until you have a sense of the prisoner's interests outside of political organizing.

And what we hear from prisoners time and time again is to include detail. Prison is so total that the details of life on the outside become distant memories. Smells, textures, sounds of the street all get grayed out behind bars. That's not to say that you should pen a stream-of-consciousness novel.

For things you should and should not remember when writing to folks, read "Guidelines."

## Guidelines

You cannot enclose glitter or write with glittery gel pens or puff paint pens. Some prisons do not allow cards or letters that include permanent marker, crayon, or colored pencils and it is best to check with the prisoner beforehand. That said, it is usually best to write in standard pencil or non-gel pen in blue or black ink.

You cannot include articles or anything else torn out of a newspaper or magazine. However, you can print that same article from the internet or photocopy it and write your letter on the other side.

You cannot include polaroid pictures (though these days, that's not much of an issue), but you can include regular photographs. Some prisoners are limited to the number of photos they can have at any given time, so again, check with the prisoner before sending a stack of photos.

If mailing more than a letter, clearly write the contents of the envelope/package. Label it "CONTENTS" and include a full list.

A couple of technical details—make sure you include your return address inside the letter as well as on the envelope. It's common for prisoners to receive letters without the envelope. Make sure to paginate—number each page, such as 1 of 3, 2 of 3, et cetera. This insures that if pages of your letter don't make it to the prisoner, they will know it.

Be careful about making promises and only commit to what you are certain you can do. This should go without saying, but it's not a good idea to make commitments to someone you don't have a relationship with. If you can't maintain a correspondence, let them know up front. Conversely, if you want to maintain an ongoing correspondence, let them know that as well.

If you are writing to someone who is pre-trial, don't ask questions about their case. Discussing what a prisoner is alleged to have done can easily come back to haunt them during their trial or negotiations leading up to it.

Don't valorize the person you are writing. Keep in mind that these are folks coming from the same movements and communities that you are. They aren't looking for adoration, but rather to maintain correspondence.

Finally, do not write anything you wouldn't want Fox News, a cop, or a judge to see. Assume that intelligence and law enforcement agencies are reading your letter. On a related note, this advice goes for any snail mail, e-mail, texting, messaging, or talking that takes place in known activist spaces or homes. This is not legal advice, just basic movement survival common sense (to review, read "Staying Safe").

## STAYING SAFE

You never have to, and it is never a good idea to talk to police, FBI, ICE, or any other law enforcement agent or investigator. Other than providing your name and address to a police officer who is investigating a crime, you never have to talk. You will not outsmart them by talking or sound less suspicious by talking or make things easier for yourself by talking. Anything you say will be used against you and others. If they catch you in a lie or inconsistency they can charge you with a separate crime.

Say: I have nothing to say to you OR I need a lawyer present to continue this conversation. If they come to your home, workplace, or school, ask them for a business card and tell them your attorney will be in contact with them.

The FBI may threaten you with a grand-jury subpoena for not talking. It doesn't matter because they were probably going to subpoena you anyway and you weren't going to talk anyway. If you receive a grand jury subpoena you should immediately contact a lawyer and let others in your community know. People can be held for up to six months for refusing to talk to grand juries. Even so, for our own survival, it is imperative that we take that risk and do not participate in grand juries as they are used to indict political prisoners and prisoners of war.

In the federal legal system, the grand jury is used to decide whether someone should be charged ("indicted") for a serious crime. The grand jury hears evidence presented by the prosecutor: the U.S. Attorney. The grand jury uses subpoenas to gather this evidence. It can subpoena documents, physical evidence, and witnesses to testify. The "special"

federal grand jury, created in 1970, can be used to investigate “possible” organized criminal activity rather than a specific crime.

Currently there is more than one active grand jury in new york city. There are also more than likely informants and agent provocateurs infiltrating the anarchist community here.

It is imperative that we continue our work as anarchists including the support of political prisoners and prisoners of war towards the abolition of the state, of capitalism, and of all oppression. It is also imperative that we do so in a way that is smart, strategic, and sustainable.

## NYC Anarchist Black Cross

NYC Anarchist Black Cross is a collective focused on supporting US-held political prisoners and prisoners of war and opposing state repression against revolutionary social justice movements. We are a Support Group of the continental Anarchist Black Cross Federation.

NYC ABC
Post Office Box 110034
Brooklyn, New York 11211

nycabc[at]riseup[dot]net
nycabc.wordpress.com
facebook.com/nycabc
twitter.com/nycabc
instagram.com/nycabc

new york city anarchist black cross
post office box 110034
brooklyn, new york 11211